

CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE

ENGINEERING SERVICES DEPARTMENT

710 E. MULLAN AVENUE
COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO 83814-3958
208/769-2216 – FAX 208/769-2284
E-mail: gordon@cdaid.org

April 19, 2012

Julie Congdon
NPDES Compliance Unit
U.S. EPA Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900 (M/S OCE-133)
Seattle, WA 98101

Re: City of Coeur d Alene (MS4) Compliance Inspection September 12, 2011
Response to Notice of Violation and Information Request

Dear Ms. Congdon:

Please accept the following as our response to the notice of violation and information request letter from your office in reference to your September 13, 2011 inspection of our stormwater management program.

The City of Coeur d Alene is making every effort to comply with and exceed the requirements of our NPDES permit. Please ask any questions you may have.

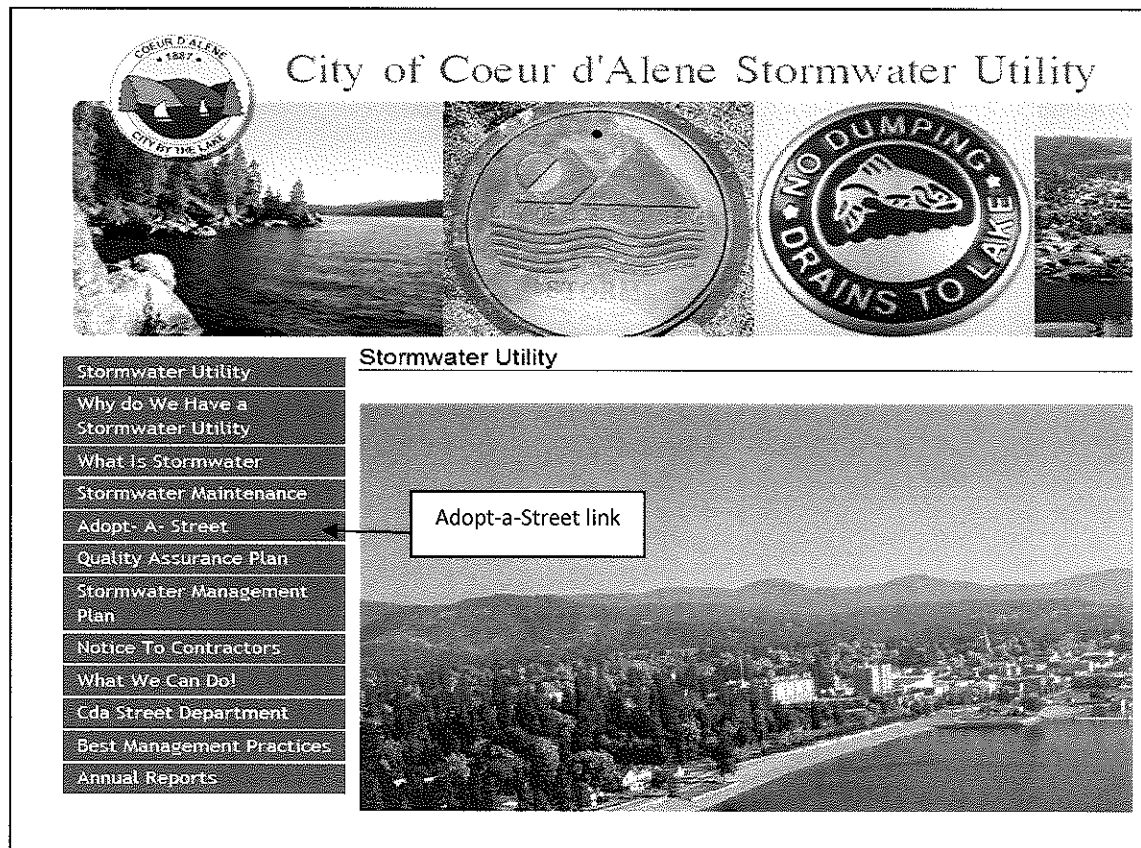
Sincerely,

Gordon Dobler, P.E.
City Engineer

Violation 1)

Per Part II.B.2.c of the Permit requires the City to organize and promote citizen participation in each of its Adopt-a-Street and Annual Litter Pick-up programs. On page 4 of the 2010 Annual Report, the City states that information about the Adopt-a-Street and Litter Pick-up programs is available on the City's website. In reviewing the website, the compliance officer could not find information about either of these programs. Since it appears that this is the only way in which the City promotes these programs, the City is in violation of Part II.B.2.c of the Permit.

The Adopt a Street information link is on our stormwater page. The Adopt a Street information has been presented at council meetings and also in our local paper. However, we will update our website to make the information easier to find and provide additional information about this program and volunteer opportunities for other litter pick up events.



Violation 2)

Per Part II.B.3.d of the Permit, the City is required to provide a copy of the completed comprehensive MS4 map as an electronic file via ARC GIS format to EPA as part of the corresponding Annual Report. An electronic copy of this map was not included in the 2010 Annual Report. This is a violation of Part II.B.3.d of the Permit.

A disk of the map was submitted with the annual report. The file was too large to send electronically, as noted in the e mail. The City did provide a link to EPA to access the map electronically.

Coeur d'Alene Large MS4 map

FRISBIE, DEBBIE

● You replied to this message on 8/2/2011 2:30 PM.

Sent: Tue 8/2/2011 2:12 PM

To: 'congdon.jule@epa.gov'

Cc: HARRINGTON, KIM

Hello Julie,

I've stored the large MS4 map on our ftp site so you can download it. The file size is too large to email. I made 2 version the high resolution version and the low resolution site for two days and then delete them.

High resolution (large file size): <ftp://www.cdaid.org/CDAGIS/ms4mapPoster.pdf>

Lower resolution (smaller file size): <ftp://www.cdaid.org/CDAGIS/ms4mapPosterSmallerFileSize.pdf>

If you have any problems viewing the map, let me know.

Debbie Frisbie
GIS Coordinator
Information Systems
City of Coeur d'Alene

debbiet@cdaid.org
Phone: (208) 769-2376
www.cdaid.org

Violation 3)

Per Part II.C.3 of the Permit, the City is required to include in each Annual Report a description of how the activities in each of the minimum control measures in Part II.B will be targeted by the City to control the discharge of pollutants of concern. In the 2010 Annual Report, it appears that the "Information for Reviewers" on page 4 was intended to satisfy this permit requirement. However, it lacked specificity in identifying how the City will evaluate and measure the effectiveness of its SWMP to control the discharge of the pollutant(s) of concern. This is a violation of Part II.C.3 of the Permit.

The discussion on how the activities would be targeted to control discharge of pollutants of concern and how the City would measure the effectiveness of these activities was set forth in the Stormwater Management Plan, attached in the Appendices. There is a separate discussion for each of the six minimum measures. We will bring those descriptions forward into the body of the report in our next annual report.

Violation 4)

Per Part II.B.6.a of the Permit, the City is required to have a program that addresses “municipal activities occurring within the permittee’s jurisdiction with potential for negative stormwater related water quality impacts, including: the use of ..road deicers”. In reviewing the permit file, EPA found a letter to Tim Martin, the Street Superintendent for the City of Coeur d’Alene, from the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality (IDEQ), dated December 7, 2009. The letter expressed concerns regarding the City’s use of a concentrated sugar beet byproduct (CSB) as a component in the City’s deicing agent in the road deicing. IDEQ’s concerns were related to the amounts and concentrations of total phosphorus (TP), chemical oxygen demand (COD) and biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) produced by the deicing agent mixture used by the City. There is no information in the permit file or in the documents that EPA reviewed that indicate whether the City resolved IDEQ’s concerns regarding the deicing agent and/or how the City addressed the potential negative stormwater related water quality impacts that could be caused by the deicing agent. This is a violation of Part II.B.6.a of the Permit.

As part of the City’s responsibility under our discharge permit we evaluated our de-icer product for Sodium, Chemical Oxygen Demand, Total Phosphorus, and Biochemical Oxygen Demand. With the exception of phosphorus, these are not pollutants of concern in our discharge permit. However, the testing was necessary in order to address DEQ’s concerns. The results were conveyed to DEQ via subsequent telephone conversations and their concerns were allayed. The concentrations in our mixture were several orders of magnitude below what DEQ had expected. We are not aware of any subsequent concerns by DEQ.

Areas of Concern

1) Per Part IV.D of the Permit, the City is required to submit its reports and other documents required by the Permit to the EPA NPDES Compliance Unit. Instead of sending the 2009 Annual Report, the 2010 Annual Report and the Quality Assurance Plan (QAP) to the NPDES Compliance Unit, the City sent these documents to the NPDES Permits Unit. Please ensure that Permit submittals are sent to the correct entity with EPA.

The City of Coeur d'Alene will verify that we have the correct address's in future correspondence with EPA. We will use the addresses noted in section IV.D of the permit.

2) Per Part II.B.2.b of the Permit, within two years of the effective date of the Permit, the City must post all SWMP documentation and Annual Reports on its regularly maintained website. Since the 2010 Annual Report had not been sent to EPA, the compliance officer tried to access it through the City's website. The link on the webpage (<http://streets.cdaid.org/index.php/annual-report>) appeared to be broken because there was only a blank white screen. The compliance officer was able to print a copy of the 2010 Annual Report by clicking on the small printer icon. Not all visitors to the webpage might be able to figure out that this is a way to view the Annual Report. As such, the Annual Reports do not appear easily accessible to those visiting the stormwater webpage. EPA recommends that the City update its website such that the SWMP documentation and Annual Reports are easily accessible to the public.

The 2010 Annual Report was sent to EPA, see delivery receipt information below. (noted in area of concern 1, EPA acknowledged receipt of the 2010 annual report) We are not clear on why the compliance officer was unable to access the annual reports on our website. A tab for the annual reports is on the stormwater main page. We test the site periodically and have never had a time in which we could not view the reports. The only explanation we have is that it must have been a fluke at the time the officer was trying to view. The City is requesting the date and time of the compliance officers review of the website in order to enable us to determine the cause of the site not operating properly.



Invoice Number	Invoice Date	Account Number	Page
7-398-19693	Feb 17, 2011	1403-5673-5	4 of 4

FedEx Express Shipment Detail By Payor Type (Original)

Picked up: Feb 14, 2011 Cust Ref: Engineering, Kim Ref #2:
 Payor: Shipper Ref #3:

- Fuel Surcharge - FedEx has applied a fuel surcharge of 10.00% to this shipment.
- Distance Based Pricing, Zone 3
- 1st attempt Feb 15, 2011 at 07:29 AM.

Automation Tracking ID Service Type Package Type Zone Packages Rated Weight Delivered Svc Area Signed by FedEx Use	INET 794422264932 FedEx First Overnight FedEx Envelope 03 1 N/A Feb 15, 2011 08:00 AI M.WEMIGWANS 00000000/000000/...	Sender Kathy Lewis CITY OF COEUR D'ALENE 710 MULLAN COEUR D'ALENE ID 83814 US	Recipient Attn: Storm Water Program U S Environmental Protection A 1200 6TH AVE STE 900 SEATTLE WA 98101 US
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Transportation Charge	46.25
Fuel Surcharge	5.03
Counter Pickup Charge	4.00
Total Charge	USD \$55.28
Shipper Subtotal	USD \$55.28
Total FedEx Express	USD \$55.28



Delivered Feb 15, 2011
8:00am

Link to Annual Reports

Stormwater Utility	Yearly Annual Reports
Why do we have a stormwater utility?	2009 Annual Report
What is Stormwater?	2010 Annual Report
Stormwater Maintenance	2011 Annual Report
Adopt-A-Street	
Quality Assurance Plan	
Stormwater Management Plan	
Notice to Contractors	
What We Can Do	
City Street Department	
Food Management Practices	
Annual Reports	

3) Per Part II.B.3.a of the Permit, the City is required to develop an information management database system to track the activities and actions of the illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE) program. A copy of this database was provided to EPA upon request in the pre-inspection questionnaire. In the database, there were 47 illicit discharge reports and complaints received: 5 ranked "High" priority, 16 were of "Medium" priority, and 26 were "Low" priority. However, not all of the entries appeared valid as they were tests of the system. It is recommended that a written, standard operating procedure be developed regarding what ranks a complaint or report as "High", "Medium", and "Low" so there is consistency among the staff who rank the entries in the system.

A written standard operating procedure in reference to prioritizing illicit discharges and stormwater complaints and concerns will be added to our IDDE program. All city staff will be directed to code entries into our "City Track" database reporting system as "High" priority. Our system will notify designated staff and the appropriate priority ranking of the call will be assigned. This approach enables all city staff to take the calls and appropriate staff to rank the priority.

Prioritizing Illicit Discharge

and Stormwater Concern / Complaint Reports

When a report of an illicit discharge or stormwater complaint or concern is received the following is to be used as a guide to prioritize the call.

High Priority (Immediate action is required)

- Spills / Accidents
- Intentional Dumping
- Leaking automotive fluids
- Public Health and Safety Issues

Medium Priority (3-5 day response)

- Cross connection between a sanitary sewer and a storm sewer.
- Failing septic system that is causing surface discharge into the storm sewer.
- Sanitary waste piping that is directly connected from a home to the storm sewer.
- Piping other than rainwater or outdoor surface drainage that is directly connected from a private property to the storm sewer.
- Shop floor drain that is connected directly to a storm sewer.

Low Priority (5-10 day response)

- Slow draining catch basin*
- Slow draining or plugged grassed infiltration area*

*if flooding is occurring on street or private property that is a safety concern or threat to property damage upgrade priority to high

4) It is recommended that the City engage more actively in household hazardous waste collection events. At such events, the City could directly educate the public on the important role the public has in safely disposing of the wastes rather than allowing them to leak and get pollutants into stormwater.

The City currently promotes proper disposal of household hazardous waste and provides the phone number of the Kootenai County Solid Waste Department in our educational materials. The City has requested information from the Kootenai County Solid Waste Department about their household hazardous waste program and any events they may have that would provide us with the opportunity to partner.